



NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

TO: State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, California 95812-3044

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
1416 Ninth Street
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, California 94296-0001

SUBJECT: Filing of a Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 of the Public Resources Code.

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER: 2004082055

PROJECT TITLE: High Sierra Crossings Museum

CONTACT: Northern Service Center Environmental Coordinator **EMAIL:** CEQANSC@parks.ca.gov
DPR, One Capitol Mall, Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95814

PROJECT LOCATION: Donner Memorial State Park, Nevada County

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Construction of a new museum/visitor center to introduce the public to the natural features and cultural history of Donner Memorial State Park and the surrounding area and replace the existing Emigrant Trail Museum, located in a different area of the park. This project also includes an access driveway from Donner Pass Road and a new parking area.

This is to advise that the California Department of Parks and Recreation has approved the above project on April 12, 2005, and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1. ☐ The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
☒ The project will have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☒ An Environmental Impact Report was prepared and certified for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
☐ A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project, pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures ☒ were ☐ were not made a condition of the approval of the project. Mitigation measures incorporated into the project reduce the following potentially significant environmental effects to a less-than-significant level:
 - ◆ Degrade the quality of the environment: disrupt established drainage patterns; degrade water quality; increase siltation, directional runoff, and erosion;
 - ◆ Substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species: nesting raptors (osprey, bald eagle), forest birds, and bats;
 - ◆ Threaten to eliminate a plant community (CNPS List 1B and 2 plant species: marsh skullcap, Oregon fireweed, and Tahoe yellow cress);
 - ◆ Reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, [bald eagle (federal Threatened), osprey (California Species of Concern), Lahontan cutthroat trout (federal Threatened), mountain sucker (California Species of Concern), and mountain yellow-legged frog (proposed federal Threatened or Endangered)];
 - ◆ Damage to a wetland area or floodplain resulting from activities in conflict with an applicable land use plan/policy adopted for the purpose of avoiding an environmental effect.

4. A Mitigation reporting or monitoring plan ☒ was ☐ was not adopted for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations ☒ was ☐ was not adopted for this project.
- ◆ The proposed project has the potential to eliminate important examples of major periods of California history or prehistory by disturbing the integrity of significant archaeological features and artifacts. The project's potential to disturb any human remains is considered less than significant; however, should the project activities result in exposure of human remains, their removal would constitute a significant irreversible environmental change. Mitigation measures incorporated into the project would reduce the potential effects of the removal of human remains and any associated artifacts to the greatest extent feasible.
6. Findings ☒ were ☐ were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, is available to the General Public at the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Northern Service Center, located at One Capitol Mall, Suite 410, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Original Signed by

Theodore L. Jackson, Jr.
Deputy Director
Park Operations

Date